

COUNTRY East Germany

SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

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TOPIC General Military Information

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 20 April 1953

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REFERENCES

PAGES 5 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. At about 7:30 p.m. on 3 April 1953, tanks [redacted] and their crews were entrained at the Freienwalde railroad station. 1
2. Between 26 March and 1 April, the barracks installations in Eberswalde were occupied to capacity. Firing practice with machine guns and sub-machine guns was observed almost daily. Heavy motor vehicle traffic was seen in town. On 30 March and 1 April, tanks were loaded at the Eberswalde railroad station. At about 2 p.m. on 30 March, a vehicle column drove toward the barracks installations. The column consisted of 4 armored scout cars, [redacted] 1 ambulance, 1 tank truck, 1 radio truck, 2 jeeps and 38 trucks [redacted]

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On 1 April, the Schuetzen Kaserne was occupied by about 4,600 troops, including the headquarters. The soldiers wore red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia and black-bordered black epaulets. Recruits were engaged in training and firing practice at the installation. Armored scout cars [redacted] were seen in the barracks area. At about 12:45 p.m. on 26 March, a unit reentered the Schuetzen Kaserne which it had left on 23 March. [redacted] On 1 April, the Artillerie Kaserne was occupied by about 4,500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with tank or artillery insignia, and black-bordered black epaulets. Truck [redacted] towing a 57-mm AT gun was observed in the barracks area. Between 27 and 30 March, four tanks would leave the installation almost daily. Trucks [redacted] were observed at the Artillerie Kaserne. At about 10:30 a.m. on 30 March, about three tanks were observed on the siding at the Eberswalde railroad station. At about 8 a.m. on 1 April, 3 JS-III and 3 additional tanks were loaded at the railroad station. 2

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3. At about 6 p.m. on 23 March, an undetermined number of trucks and 1 x 132-mm rocket launcher were loaded on 10 flatcars at the Eberswalde freight station. At about 12:30 p.m. on 26 March, 7 x 132-mm rocket launchers, [redacted]

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10 to 12 trucks and 51 soldiers with red-bordered black epaulets were unloaded at the freight station.²

4. On 29 March, prime mover [] towing a 100-mm AT gun and a truck occupied by 16 soldiers drove northward on the Stendal-Forstel highway. 25X1
5. [] on 15 March, a troop train with tanks was unloaded at Hillersleben, and another troop train at Wolmirstedt. At about 6 p.m. on 18 March, a troop train with 6 JS-III tanks, 2 JS-I tanks and 6 to 8 trucks, [] passed through Haldensleben toward Hillersleben. [] the train was unloaded at Hillersleben. At about 7:30 a.m. on 19 March, a shipment of four T-43 tanks passed through Haldensleben en route to Hillersleben. On the same day, trucks [] loaded with straw were observed in Haldensleben.³ 25X1
6. At about 8 p.m. on 24 March, a troop train of 40 cars with artillery was unloaded at the Magdeburg-Altstadt railroad station. The train came from Loburg.⁴ Between 26 and 29 March, 300 to 400 troops drilled or were engaged in AT gun practicing at the Flak Kaserne. At about 9 a.m. on 30 March, 450 to 500 troops participated in a parade in the barracks area. [] the Flak Kaserne was occupied to capacity. 25X1
7. Between 3 a.m. and 2 p.m. on 20 March, local residents observed numerous large columns of trucks, prime movers and artillery pieces with soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets passing through Ziesar toward Brandenburg and Glienicke and toward the autobahn and Schenkedorf [] 25X1
- [] At about noon on 23 March, a column of 8 x 37-mm AA guns and 20 to 24 motor vehicles passed through Ziesar. Each vehicle was occupied by 8 to 15 EM with red-bordered black epaulets. The column came from the direction of Brandenburg and went toward Altengrabow. At about 5 p.m. on 24 March, a column of 15 trucks loaded with ammunition boxes, [] passed through Ziesar. The column came from the direction of Brandenburg and went toward the Altengrabow troop training grounds.⁵ 25X1
8. At about 2 p.m. on 16 February, a troop train carrying 69 trucks and 6 field kitchens was observed at the Veltow railroad station. The engine was headed toward Berlin. At about 3 p.m. on the same day, another troop train carrying 9 x 85-mm AA guns and 40 to 50 trucks [] was standing at the Kremmen railroad station. The engine was headed toward Berlin.⁶ 25X1
9. At about 11 a.m. on 19 March, 12 medium tanks, apparently from the Neue Infanterie Kaserne, were loaded at the Neustrelitz railroad station and left toward Neubrandenburg.⁷ On 20 March, additional armored vehicles were loaded at the same railroad station. At about 9:30 a.m. on 25 March, 5 x 76-mm AA guns and trucks [] with billeting equipment were unloaded at the Neustrelitz railroad station. [] 25X1
- [] On 26 March, five limbered AA guns and tents were seen on a hill about 300 meters west of Prenzlauer Chaussee off the entrance to the Neue Infanterie Kaserne. [] the five AA guns were unloaded and driven to the Neue Infanterie 25X1

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Kaserne on 25 March. At about 5:30 p.m. on 26 March, ammunition was unloaded from three trucks at the Neustrelitz railroad station and piled up on the loading ramp.⁸ On 27 March, troops with red-bordered black epaulets were loaded on 4 boxcars and the following vehicles on an undetermined number of flatcars: eight JSU-122 [redacted] and several trucks [redacted]

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The train left toward Brandenburg. At about 10 a.m. on 25 March, troops with red-bordered black epaulets, including a colonel and a lieutenant colonel, 23 trucks, 1 sedan and about 35 x 122-mm mortars were loaded on 16 boxcars at the Neustrelitz railroad station.

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At about 10:30 a.m. on 25 March, 5 x 132-mm rocket launchers and truck [redacted] towing a 122-mm field howitzer were observed at the loading ramp.¹⁰ At about 12:30 p.m., about 5 x 122-mm field howitzers and trucks [redacted] were loaded at the railroad station. One truck carried a field kitchen, while other trucks were loaded with billeting equipment.¹⁰ On 28 March, a troop train carrying 5 x 132-mm rocket launchers, 6 x 122-mm field howitzers and about 40 trucks [redacted]

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[redacted] was observed at the Granienburg railroad station. The engine was headed toward Neustrelitz.

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- [redacted]
10. During one hour in the night of 9 March, columns of artillery pieces, AT guns and trucks passing through Stralsund were observed at the main station. They came from the direction of Ruegen Island and went toward Rostock. On 11 March, a troop train from Bergen passed the Stralsund railroad station. The train consisted of 7 boxcars and 32 flatcars with 10 AT guns, 5 three-axle pneumatic tired armored personnel carriers [redacted] and 15 trucks [redacted]. On 14 March, a troop train of 14 boxcars and 29 flatcars [redacted] left Prora at 10:14 p.m. and arrived at Torgelow at 11:46 p.m.¹⁴

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1. [redacted] Comment. The tanks probably belong to the 16th Gds Mecz Regt of the 6th Gds Mecz Div.
2. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] all troops stationed in Eberswalde were still in their quarters on 1 April 1953. The loading of an element of the 312th Gds RL Regt on 23 March 1953 was previously reported [redacted]. This loading and the return of the above unit is also confirmed in paragraph 3 of the present report. [redacted] The unit conducted three-day field exercises at Lieberose.

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3. Comment. [] the troop train on 18 March 1953 probably carried an element of the 16th Gds Tank SP Regt of the 207th Itz Rifle Div from Stendal. The trucks loaded with straw belong to a component of the 19th Gds Mecz Div from the Herrenkrug Kaserne in Magdeburg. The troop trains on 15 and 19 March 1953 probably carried tank details which moved to Letzling Heath for short-term combat firing practices. 25X1
4. Comment. The troop train probably carried a component of the 19th Gds Mecz Div which had conducted firing practice with live ammunition at Altengrabow until 24 March 1953. 25X1
5. Comment. The columns observed on 20 March 1953 included two vehicles of the 25th RL Brig. They belonged to units of the 25th RL Brig and 6th Arty Div which went to Altengrabow by road. The same units returned to Rathenow by rail between 22 and 25 March 1953. Their departure to Altengrabow on 20 March 1953 was also previously reported. 25X1
[] . The ammunition observed on 24 March 1953 was hauled to Altengrabow by trucks which belonged to the 18th How Arty Brig [] or corps troops of the IV Arty Corps. 25X1
6. Comment. As the troop train observed at Kremen carried a medium AAA unit, the train probably went to the Mustrow AAA Range.
7. Comment. The tank units leaving Neustrelitz to Neubrandenburg by rail on 19 and 27 March 1953, probably moved to the area south of Neubrandenburg for firing practices which were previously conducted in the same area. 25X1
[] the troop train observed at the Neustrelitz railroad station on 27 March 1953 carried a tank unit of the 1st Mecz Div. According to previous reports, four or five tank shipments of this division were dispatched from Doeberitz to Neustrelitz between 11 and 19 March 1953, while only one tank shipment returned to Doeberitz on 19 March and another shipment on 21 March 1953. []
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[] the tank units left for combat firing practices only after a short stay at Neustrelitz.
8. Comment. [] the AA guns unloaded at the Neustrelitz railroad station on 25 March 1953 belonged to a unit of the 31st AAA Div in Schoenwalde which probably were to remain at Neustrelitz as AA protection. 25X1
9. Comment. The troops loaded at the Neustrelitz railroad station on 25 March 1953 probably were elements of the 234th Mort Regt of the 9th Gds Tank Div. The 35 mortars are indicating that the regiment is organized into 2 battalions of 3 batteries with 6 x 120-mm mortars each, and 1 battalion of 3 batteries with 4 x 160-mm mortars each. Probably the train also went to the training area south of Neubrandenburg.
10. Comment. The elements of the 126th Gds RL Bn and the artillery regiment of the 9th Gds Tank Div entrained at noon on 25 March 1953 probably went from Neustrelitz to Jueterbog for combat firing practices. On 28 March 1953, they returned to their home station.

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11. [] Comment. The troop train on 11 March 1953 carried an element of the 4th AT Arty Brig [] from Prora. [] elements of this brigade had left Stralsund by rail northward on 14 and 15 March 1953. [] It is believed that, in mid-March 1953, elements of the 4th AT Arty Brig were outside Ruegen Island for field exercises, possibly at Rostocker Heide.

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12. [] Comment. [] artillery units of the KVPD Prora were to conduct firing practices with live ammunition on and after 18 March 1953. [] It is conceivable that the troop train observed on 14 March 1953 carried an artillery unit of KVPD Prora. The construction of target ranges for firing practice with live ammunition was previously reported from the Torgelow area.

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